

Message Text

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12
ACTION SS-25

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O 081017Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7957

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5855

EXDIS

DEPT ALSO FOR A/SY/FO

FOL SENT ACTION BELGRADE FROM ZAGREB SEP 7:

QUOTE ZAGREB 0747

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN AND

REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER JOE LITTLE

FROM KAISER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, YO, US
SUBJECT: REPORT OF PLAN TO MURDER AMBASSADOR

1. A YOUNG YUGOSLAV CAME TO SEE ME AT HOME ABOUT 2030 THIS
EVENING SEPTEMBER 7 TO CONVEY THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.
WHILE SITTING WITH A FRIEND IN A PUBLIC ROOM IN A HOTEL
IN GRAZ, HE OVERHEARD A CONVERSATION AMONG THREE YUGOSLAVS
WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS TWO YOUNG MEN AND AN OLDER GRAY-HAIRED
MAN. HE HEARD THEO SAY IN SERBO-CROATIAN: "WE HAVE TO GET
RID OF SILBERMAN," TO WHICH THE OLDER MAN SAID: " THE BEST WAY
TO DO IT IS IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT." THE YOUNG MAN DESCRIBED THE
TWO YOUNG YUGOSLAVS AS "NOT ORDINARY YUGOSLAVS." HE THEN ADDED
THAT "YOU KNOW THERE ARE SPECIAL POLICE WHO HANDLE THIS SORT
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OF THING," AND IMPLIED THAT HE THOUGH THESE MEN WERE PART

OF SUCH FORCES. HE HEARD NOTHING AS TO WHEN OR WHERE
SUCH AN ACCIDENT MIGHT TAKE PLACE. HE PROVIDED NO OTHER DETAILS.

2. THE YUGOSLAV WHO CAME TO SEE ME GAVE THE APPEARANCE
OF BEING GENUINELY NERVOUS AND EMBARRASSED ABOUT COMING AND CONVEYING
THIS INFORMATION TO ME. HE SAID HE HAD WRESTLED WITH THIS
QUESTION OF COMING TO SEE ME SINCE HE HAD RETURNED FROM GRAZ.
HE SAID THAT WHILE HE COULD NOT EXPLAIN WHY HE HAD COME, HE
FELT HE SHOULD. HE CLAIMED THAT HE HAD TRIED TO REACH ME
TWICE EARLIER TODAY BUT ON BOTH OCCASIONS I WAS NOT
AVAILABLE. (THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO
CHECK OUT WITH MY COLLEAGUES IN THE LAST FEW MINUTES.)
HE IS ABOUT 21 YEARS OLD AND CLAIMS TO BE A STUDENT AT
THE LAW FACULTY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB.

3. IT SEEMS TO ME THIS COULD BE: (1) A GOVERNMENT INSPIRED
INDIRECT THREAT; (2) A PLOY BY A THIRD PARTY INTENDED TO
PAVE THE WAY FOR BLAMING THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT; (3) A GENUINE
TRANSMITTAL OF A CONVERSATION ACTUALLY OVERHEARD; (4) A HOAX.
FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH I WOULD ADD THAT THE YOUNG MAN MADE A
WINNING IMPRESSION OF SINCERITY AND GENUINENESS ON THE YOUNG
YUGOSLAV MAID WHO FIRST PERMITTED HIM TO ENTER THE GROUNDS
AND ON JOY AND ME WHEN HE CAME TO THE FRONT DOOR OF THE HOUSE.

4. I KNOW THE ABOVE DISTURBING REPORT DOES NOT MAKE FOR
PLEASANT DREAMS, BUT I THOUGHT I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW IMMEDIATELY.
KAISER
UNQUOTE

5. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: I AM INCLINED TO THINK THAT
THE CONVERSATION OVERHEARD IN GRAZ WAS AMONG SOME
YUGOSLAV BLOWHARDS, HOWEVER, WE HAVE TIGHTENED UP OUR
SECURITY PRECAUTIONS HERE.
SILBERMAN

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